

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (amended) A brace bar attached to an inner surface of a sound board forming a body of a guitar to reinforce the sound board, comprising:

a narrow portion to improve the flexibility of the brace bar while maintaining a strength of the brace bar, thus improving the resonance of the body of the guitar, the narrow portion having a cross-section with a profile of which at least one side extends vertically upward to a position of a predetermined height, thus forming a lower base part, and is bent inward at said position toward a center of the brace bar thereby forming an upper surface of said lower base part, and, thereafter, extends upward while being inclined at a predetermined inclination angle to form a tapered upper part.

2. (original) The brace bar as set forth in claim 1, wherein the narrow portion has a cross-section that both sides extend vertically upward to positions of the predetermined height, thus forming the lower base part, and are bent inward at the positions toward the center of the brace bar, and, thereafter, extend upward while being inclined at the predetermined inclination angle to form the tapered upper part.

3. (original) The brace bar as set forth in claim 1, wherein the narrow portion has a cross-section that one side extends vertically upward to the position of the predetermined height, is bent inward at the position toward the center of the brace bar, and extends upward while being inclined at the predetermined inclination

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angle, but the other side extends vertically upward to a top of the brace bar.